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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application : Robert S. Silvers
Application No. : 08/957,833
Filed : October 27, 1997
For : DIGITAL COMPOSITION OF A MOSAIC IMAGE
Examiner :
Attorney's Docket : RTI-001XX

Group Art Unit: 2772

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the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope
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D.C. 20231 on 2/8/99

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DECLARATION OF ROBERT S. SILVERS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Robert S. Silvers, hereby declare the following:

1. I am the inventor of the claimed subject matter in the
above-identified patent application, which is also disclosed in
provisional patent application No. 60/035,733, filed January 2,

(19) 日本国特許庁 (J P)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11) 特許出願公開番号

特開平7-302271

(43) 公開日、平成7年(1995)11月14日

(51) Int.Cl.⁶ 識別記号 庁内整理番号 F I 技術表示箇所

G 0 6 F 17/30

G 0 6 T 1/00

9194-5L

G 0 6 F 15/ 40

3 7 0 B

9071-5L

15/ 62

P

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数 3 O L (全 5 頁)

(21) 出願番号 特願平6-95998

(22) 出願日 平成6年(1994)5月10日

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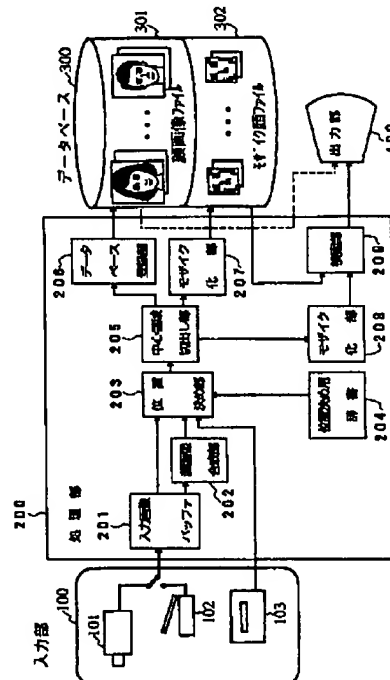
(74) 代理人 弁理士 小笠原 吉義 (外1名)

(54) 【発明の名称】 合成顔検索装置

(57) 【要約】

【目的】モーフィングにより得られた合成顔やコンピュータグラフィックスで生成した人工顔を類似顔検索に適用し、人間の主観に一致あるいは近い顔の検索を可能とすることを目的とする。

【構成】検索対象となる人物の顔画像における特徴部分を含む領域のデータを、データベースに登録する手段と、複数の顔画像を合成した合成顔画像または人工的に生成した顔画像における同様の特徴部分を含む領域のデータを抽出し、そのデータとデータベース内の登録済みデータとを比較して、合成顔画像または人工生成顔画像に類似した人物を選択し出力する手段とを設け、曖昧な記憶による特定人物の検索や、人工的に作り上げた人物に似た顔の検索を可能とする。



1997, from which the above-identified patent application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e).

2. The above-identified patent application contains claims to methods of generating a mosaic image having an appearance approximating that of a target image using a computer. All of these claims recite, either directly or by reference, a process including the steps of (1) dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions, each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image, (2) dividing each tile region into distinct sub-regions, (3) during a step of comparing source images to the tile regions to produce a measurement of visual similarity, comparing each sub-region with a respective portion of the source image to produce the measurement of visual similarity, (4) selecting the source image having the highest measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile region, and (5) positioning the selected source image in the mosaic image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

3. Submitted herewith as part of an Information Disclosure Statement is a photocopy of the cover of the November 1995 issue of WIRED magazine. A photocopy of this cover is also attached as Exhibit A to this Declaration.

4. As shown in Exhibit A, the November 1995 issue of WIRED magazine contained an image consisting of a number of images positioned with respect to each other so as to approximate an image of Mr. Nicholas Negroponte.

5. I created the image of Exhibit A using a process different from the claimed subject matter of the above-identified patent application. For example, the process used to create the image of Exhibit A did not employ a step of dividing each tile region of the target image into distinct sub-regions, nor did it employ a step of comparing each sub-region with a respective portion of a source image to produce a measurement of visual similarity.

6. Moreover, the image in Exhibit A does not disclose or suggest the claimed subject matter of the above-identified patent application, particularly the process steps described in paragraph 2 above.

7. I believe that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are allowable over the prior art of record.

The foregoing statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that any such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application or any patent issued thereon. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Date: 2/2/1999

Robert S. Silvers
Robert S. Silvers

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WIRED

Exhibit A

November 1995

Kevin Kelly interviews
Douglas Horstadter
in physics of *Star Trek*
Phil Patton on the
Black Budget

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BEING DOUBT DIGITAL

The Media Lab at 10
The Wired Interview with
**Nicholas
Negroponte**

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\$4.95 / Canada 5.95